

Fall 2015

ENGL 6280

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University of New Orleans

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Recommended Citation

Marti, Kevin, "ENGL 6280" (2015). *University of New Orleans Syllabi*. Paper 494.
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ENGL 6280-601 * Introduction to Graduate Studies in English * Dr. Kevin Marti
Office: LA 173 * Fall 2015 * Class meets Mondays 6:00-8:45pm in LA 212 * Office hrs: (please make an appointment): Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:15-2:00pm, 3:15-4:00pm, Mondays 8:45-9:45pm * Office phone: 280 7428 * kmarti@uno.edu

SYLLABUS

Reading assignments, exercises, and papers are to be completed by the beginning of the class period on the date beside which each is listed:

1. 8/24 Introduction, syllabus, course policies. EACH STUDENT ANNOUNCES WHICH THREE CRITICAL APPROACHES THE STUDENT HAS CHOSEN FOR THE FIRST ORAL REPORT AND THE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY TO BE DISTRIBUTED ON THE DATE OF THAT ORAL REPORT. Students choose dates on which they will give oral reports on Dante scholarship related to three critical approaches and distribute annotated bibliographies of Dante scholarship related to those approaches to all students

Inferno (canto numbers assigned beside each date)

2. 8/31 1-7; Barry ch. 1

Labor Day: no class 9/7

3. 9/14 8-14; Barry ch. 2. First half of meeting: Student reports on 3 approaches_____&_____&_____&_____

4. 9/21 15-21; Barry ch. 3. First half of meeting: Student reports on 3 approaches:_____&_____&_____&_____

5. 9/28 22-28; Barry ch. 4. First half of meeting: Student reports on 3 approaches:_____&_____&_____&_____

6. 10/5 29-34; Barry ch. 5. MIDTERM REPORTS DUE. STUDENTS GIVE ORAL REPORTS ON MIDTERM EXAM ESSAYS DURING FIRST HALF OF MEETING

Purgatorio (canto numbers assigned beside each date)

7. 10/12 1-8; Barry ch. 6. MIDTERM EXAM DURING FIRST HALF OF MEETING

final date to drop courses or resign from university: 10/14

fall break: no class 10/15

8. 10/19 9-17; Barry ch. 7. STUDENTS CHOOSE DATES FOR ORAL REPORTS ON TERM PAPERS

9. 10/26 18-25; Barry ch. 8.

10.11/2 26-33; Barry ch. 9. First half of meeting: Student reports on term papers_____&_____&_____&_____

Paradiso (canto numbers assigned beside each date)

11.11/9 1-8; Barry ch. 11 (skip ch. 10). First half of meeting: Student reports on term papers_____&_____&_____&_____

12.11/16 9-17; Barry ch. 12. First half of meeting: Student reports on term papers_____&_____&_____&_____

13.11/23 18-25; Barry ch. 14 (skip ch. 13). First half of meeting: Student reports on term papers_____&_____&_____&_____

14.11/30 26-33. TERM PAPERS DUE. STUDENTS GIVE ORAL REPORTS ON FINAL EXAM ESSAYS DURING FIRST HALF OF MEETING

FINAL EXAMINATION: Monday, December 7, 5:30-7:30pm in the usual classroom. NOTE THAT EXAM BEGINS ONE-HALF HOUR EARLIER THAN THE USUAL MEETING TIME.

COURSE POLICIES

My office is LA 173, but I often hold office hours in the classroom right after each class ends. If I am not in my office at the beginning of office hours, check the room of the preceding class posted on my door, check back in a few minutes, or email me. Please make an appointment rather than simply dropping by during my office hours; otherwise, I cannot guarantee that you will find me available. Frequently faculty meetings take me away from office hours; also, often a line of other students with appointments may make it impossible to meet with you if you have no appointment.

THERE ARE NO EMERGENCIES IN THIS COURSE. Whatever problem you have, we will take care of it in due time. If for reasons beyond your control you cannot complete a paper on time, I will accept it late with no penalty, but be prepared to document your excuse. If you have no good excuse for a late paper, I will still accept it late, but with a penalty: the later I receive it, the lower the grade. In either case, don't panic if I'm not available at the moment of your crisis; just finish the paper when you can, and we will work things out later. I will accept no papers turned in after the final exam. All assignments and due dates are outlined in great detail in the course policies and syllabus handed out on the first day of class. Students have several weeks to ask any questions about the midterm report, term paper, midterm exam and final exam. Failure to complete any ONE of the following four course requirements will result in a grade of F for the entire course: midterm report, term paper, midterm exam, final exam. **ALL MIDTERM REPORTS AND TERM PAPERS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN THE FORM OF PRINTED HARD COPIES, NOT IN THE FORM OF EMAILS OR ATTACHMENTS TO EMAILS.** Do not assume that I have received a midterm report or term paper from you if you have emailed it to me.

Texts:

Dante, *Inferno*, trans. Sinclair, Oxford. ISBN: 0195004124
Dante, *Purgatorio*, trans. Sinclair, Oxford. ISBN: 0195004132
Dante, *Paradiso*, trans. Sinclair, Oxford. ISBN: 0195004140
Barry, *Beginning Theory*, 3rd ed., Manchester UP. ISBN: 9780719079276
MLA Style Manual & Guide to Scholarly Publishing. ISBN 9780873522977

Grading:

Midterm report (written, not oral) on term paper	15%
Term paper	20%
Midterm exam	15%

Final exam	15%
Oral reports (7.5% each)	15%
Annotated bibliographies on approaches (distributed to me and all students when each student makes his/her first oral report)	10%
Class participation	10%

Term paper: It must be computer-printed, double-spaced, fifteen pages plus works consulted. The works consulted is not necessarily a list of works cited in the term paper, though all works cited must of course be included in the works consulted. The works consulted is instead a collection of references to sources relevant to the topic of the term paper, whether the term paper cites them or not. Students are not required to cite within their term papers any of the sources in their list of works consulted, but in order to write a strong term paper it is generally necessary to cite at least some relevant scholarship. Do not annotate the list of works consulted. Papers must evidence substantial work on a topic chosen by the student. Term papers should not restate information discussed by me or other students. Papers should evidence substantial reading in the relevant scholarship. Students may choose any approach to any aspect of the *Divine Comedy*, but should attempt to apply at least one of the approaches represented by a chapter in Barry. In their term papers students are not necessarily required to apply one of the three critical approaches to Dante that they featured in their oral reports on approaches and in the annotated bibliographies on those three approaches that they distribute on the day of those first oral reports, but I highly recommend that they do so. Students are also not required to follow in their term papers the same critical approach or approaches featured in the abstract and annotated bibliographies that together comprise their midterm reports, but I highly recommend that they do so. Students may in fact write a term paper on a completely different topic from the topic featured in their midterm reports (as long as they attempt to apply at least one critical approach from Barry), but I do not recommend doing so. Do not submit term papers or midterm reports in special binders; a staple in the upper left corner will suffice. Use MLA style. Papers must be submitted in hard copy rather than by email. Do not assume that an emailed term paper or midterm report has reached me.

Midterm report: It must be computer-printed, double-spaced, about five total pages; there is no penalty if the midterm report or term paper is longer than required. It should be as polished and professional as the term paper itself, but of course it will represent a rather early stage of your thinking. As such, it serves as a kind of proposal which will allow me to give you feedback that should help you with your term paper. The first two (or more) pages will be an abstract that attempts to condense into about two pages the entire argument of the term paper you propose to write. The third, fourth, and fifth (or more) pages, entitled “Annotated Works Consulted” must contain references to at least fifteen relevant print sources. If a student finds a source online and knows that it also exists in print or on a peer-reviewed scholarly database (e.g., all JSTOR sources and most sources on UNO library scholarly databases), the source may be listed and the student need not track down the print version in a library. The annotated works consulted may contain any number of additional online sources that have never been published in print or in a scholarly database, but they do not count towards the fifteen required print sources. Beside each reference, write an annotation: a summary comprising at least two sentences of what the source

contributes to your argument (the specific contribution to your argument, not the general topic of the source). Many students find it easier to write annotations that are longer than two sentences, and there is no penalty for doing so. Abstracts need not quote or refer to any of the sources in the annotated works consulted, though most good abstracts cite at least one or two. Students are free to modify or completely change their topics after submitting their midterm reports. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHIES ON THREE CRITICAL APPROACHES TO DANTE SUBMITTED AT THE TIME OF THE FIRST ORAL REPORTS MAY BE VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE ANNOTATED WORKS CONSULTED THAT ACCOMPANY THE MIDTERM REPORTS. THE LATTER ANNOTATED WORKS CONSULTED SHOULD NOT CONTAIN SOURCES IRRELEVANT TO THE TOPIC OF THE ABSTRACT. So if the abstract only applies one critical approach to Dante, only sources relevant to that critical approach should appear in the annotated bibliography that accompanies the abstract. Use MLA style.

Oral reports: Each student will give two oral reports to the class. To prepare for the first oral reports, students will choose three approaches from chapters in Barry and find fifteen scholarly publications about some aspect(s) of the *Divine Comedy* that relate to those approaches (fifteen total sources, not fifteen on each approach). Then students will write a two- or three-page (or longer) annotated bibliography featuring those scholarly sources. This annotated bibliography should be grouped into three sections corresponding with the three critical approaches chosen. In the first oral report students will begin by distributing copies of those annotated bibliographies to the class and then will speak informally about what their research has uncovered about Dante scholarship on the three approaches chosen. In this first set of oral reports students should not just restate what is in the annotated bibliography for each source, but should instead take a tentative stab at offering an attempt at an overall perspective regarding the relationship of each critical approach to Dante scholarship, at least to the extent that the sources they have found allow them to do so. In the second oral reports students will speak informally about their term paper projects and invite feedback from other students (nothing need be submitted in writing at the time of the second oral report). Separate grades are assigned for the each oral report, but the annotated bibliography distributed at the time of the first oral report will receive a grade that is separate from the grade assigned for the oral report itself.

Midterm Exam and Final Exam: There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. For each of these exams each student will choose any topic related to literary analysis of the *Comedy* he or she finds interesting and write one essay on that topic. The essay students write for each exam may not restate large portions of the midterm report abstract or of the term paper, but many students will discover in the course of researching their midterm reports and term papers that they have discovered a topic related to but not central to their reports or term papers about which they wish to write an exam essay. In any case in preparation for the exam essays it is sufficient to read three or four scholarly sources on Dante besides those used for the reports and exams and simply summarize or in some way conflate what those sources have to say. Quizzes: Unannounced quizzes will be given on the reading. No make-up quizzes. Quiz grades will be used to make final judgments about borderline final grades. Make-up midterm exams are possible in extreme cases, but make-up final exams are impossible. ANY STUDENTS WHO DO NOT SHOW UP FOR THE FINAL EXAM WILL FAIL THE COURSE.

Attendance: Attendance is required. Students who complete all other course requirements but do not meet the attendance requirement will fail the course. Each student is allowed one unexcused absence. Every unexcused absence a student accumulates beyond the first one will lower that student's final course grade by one-half of one letter. Students who wish to have an absence counted as excused must submit documentation for my files within three days after returning to class. Roll will be called at every class meeting. Students who arrive late are responsible for telling me to enter their names on the roll after class on the day they arrive late. **TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES BEFORE ENTERING THE CLASSROOM.** I will ask the dean to remove from the class roster any student who repeatedly disrupts class with electronic devices, tardiness, or talking out of turn.

Class participation: Class participation is required, and is figured as ten percent of the final course grade. Every student is expected to do his or her part to keep the discussion going every single time we meet. I will give practically no lectures, and I will try to talk as little as possible. Students must come to class having read each assignment by the date in the syllabus. Students will also be expected to be prepared to discuss each reading assignment for a full class period; that is, I will expect students to keep the discussion going themselves. I do not want any students to dominate the discussion by talking too much; rather, I expect moderate, continuous participation from each student.

Assignments from Barry's *Beginning Theory* and from Dante's *Divine Comedy*: I want to make it absolutely clear that this is not a course on the *Divine Comedy* and it is not a course on literary theory. This is an introduction to graduate studies in literature that prepares students to perform well in other courses by learning to apply different critical approaches to a particular text. It is a course in research methods. Therefore, it would not be appropriate for me to give lectures on the *Comedy* or on the different critical approaches described by Barry. Students will not be tested on their knowledge of the assigned readings in Barry or on their knowledge of the *Divine Comedy*. These oral reports are intended to help students develop their ability to make presentations, a skill they need to perform well in other graduate courses.

Student Learning Objectives:

Students who pass the course will have learned to:

- *Describe some of the basic features of each of a variety of approaches to literary scholarship.
- *Apply to some aspect of the *Divine Comedy* several major approaches to literary analysis.
- *Identify the influence on the *Comedy* of important theological, philosophical, cosmological and poetic traditions.
- *Write an abstract
- *Write an annotated bibliography
- *Use MLA documentation and principles of manuscript preparation
- *Make effective use of research resources to identify publications sharing a common focus
- *Contribute in a meaningful way to classroom discussion of literary and theoretical texts
- *Make a clear, concise oral report about a research project

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating

academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information:

http://www.uno.edu/~stlf/policy%20Manual/judicial_code_pt2.htm

Accommodation for students with disabilities. It is university policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu>.

Additional Criteria for Grading and Grading Standards: Exams will be graded on a curve. Usually the resulting grading scale deviates somewhat, but not too dramatically, from the following:

- A 90-100% correct
- B 80-89
- C 70-79
- D 60-69
- F under 60

Midterm reports and term papers will be evaluated not only in terms of how closely students adhere to detailed instructions for each in the course policies, but also in terms of how effective the reports and papers are as essays.

Statement on student conduct: All students are required to speak and otherwise behave in a manner that is respectful and that does not interfere with other students' ability to learn or the instructor's ability to teach.